Medical Health Report
of
Chatteris for 1896.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen

In accordance with the wishes of the Local Government Board, I beg to submit to you a report for the year 1896, but having so recently succeeded to the post of Medical Officer of Health it will I think be quite obvious, that it would be impossible for me to base any such report on personal observation and that therefore I am only in a position to present to your notice, a statement of such statistics as I can find amongst the material left at my disposal by my predecessor the late Dr. C. Farrar.

The ratio of Births and Deaths compares favourably with that of towns possessing an approximate population. During the year there were 137 Births registered - 65 Males & 72 Females. This gives a Birth rate of 30 per thousand, which I find is only fractionally lower than that of the preceding year.

The Deaths during the year amounted to 82, which is an increase of 2 upon last year. Infant Mortality still remains high, being close upon 5 per thousand of population; as some of these occurred within a month of birth, I can only presume that the majority of such cases were prematurely born. On the other hand 17 deaths of over 70 years of age were registered, a fact which certainly speaks well for the longevity of the town's inhabitants.

Several isolated cases of Scarlatina appear to have been notified during the year and the Schools were very properly closed in consequence. As no death occurred the disease would probably be of a benign character.

Looking upon Diptheria as synonymous with Membranous Croup, I find that no less than 8 deaths occurred therefrom, a number that is decidedly heavy, more especially as in the preceding year no death was recorded from the same disease.

Typhoid fever I find responsible for 4 deaths - No death occurred therefrom during 1895, though 5 were notified.

The other causes of death were as follows:

Diarrhoea & Dysentery ..	5
Phthisis	5
Bronchitis - Pneumonia & Pleurisy	1
Heart-Disease	3
Injuries	4
All other diseases	53.

It will be seen from the above list that only 1 death occurred from lung disease other than Phthisis, this in my experience is unprecedentedly small in proportion to the population, which I accept as being 4,587.

The Death rate is 17.8 per thousand, which likewise bears very favourable comparison to that of the last 5 years. Some few premises I find were visited by the late Dr C. Farrar in his capacity of M.O.H. but I am unable to find anything sufficiently important to warrant its inclusion in this report.

I enclose Table A., but owing to my being unable to find the several notification certificates sent during the past year, cannot unfortunately fill in Table B. with anything approaching accuracy.

I have, the remain, Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant

Ronald Daniel. M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

Chatteris,
March 1st 1897.